



Frequently Asked Questions
Department of Public Safety Building – Renovation & Expansion

Q1: Why did the State decide to renovate this building rather than build new? When did renovation and construction begin?

A1: The Department of Public Safety Building is comprised of two parts – the older, original building and an addition that was built to blend in with the original construction. It was determined to be more cost effective to renovate the original building and construct an addition rather than construct an entirely new building. Moreover, the structural components and the shell of the original building have withstood the test of time very well, and that building is eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. Preserving that building, renovating, and giving it a new purpose not only met the needs of the State, but also saved a historic building and saved taxpayers' money. Construction on the new addition began June 1, 2005, and renovation of the existing building began later that fall.

Q2: How many total square feet are in the building now?

A2: The five-story building, including the new addition, is approximately 110,000 gross square feet.

Q3: What was the cost to design, renovate the existing building, and construct the addition for the Public Safety Building? What would it have cost to design and construct a new building of similar size?

A3: It cost \$18.5 million to design the new DPS Building, renovate the original building and construct the addition. (This includes the adjacent parking lot for the building.) A new building of similar size constructed by today's standards would have cost about \$21.0 million, for a savings of about \$2.5 million. To truly replicate the construction of the original building, however, would have cost more – as much as two to three times the amount it cost to renovate the existing building.

Q4: What is the proposed completion date for construction?

A4: Substantial construction completion dates are as follows:

- March 15, 2007 – 3rd, 4th and 5th floors
- March 22, 2007 – 2nd floor
- April 2, 2007 – 1st floor

Q5: Who will occupy the building?

A5: Approximately 181 employees of the Department of Public Safety, including the following offices and divisions of DPS: Commissioner's Office, Professional Standards Bureau, Public Information, Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa State Patrol Headquarters, Intelligence Bureau, Administrative Services Division, State Fire Marshal's Office, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Narcotics Enforcement, and the Plans, Research & Training Bureau.

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Q6: What is the proposed move-in date?

A6: The department is scheduled to begin moving in on April 18 and the move should be completed by May 4, 2007.

Q7: What are some of the energy-efficiency features of the building?

A7: The building uses the following features to aid in energy efficiency:

- Operable - Low E windows with thermal break.
- Fritted glass on curtain walls to reduce solar heat gain.
- Window roller shades with 95% opacity on north side of building and 97% opacity on the remaining three sides. Reflective backing to reduce solar heat gain but transparent enough to still see outdoors.
- Glass-block flooring on fifth floor to allow light to filter to fourth floor. Clerestory windows above fifth floor also provide natural light into the building.
- Glass butt-glazing in offices to allow natural light to filter into center core of building, reducing electrical lighting loads.
- Higher percentage of materials brought to site within 500-mile radius to reduce fuel costs for shipping.
- Stone coping and brick recycled or re-used on-site to reduce waste in landfills.
- Native plants for landscaping, capable of withstanding arid conditions. Landscape irrigation system not provided to reduce water usage.
- Energy efficient T5 and T8 lamps used in light fixtures.
- Motion detectors and miscellaneous lighting controls utilized to turn lights on and shut lights off when not in use.
- Energy-efficient mechanical equipment, hot water heaters and boilers.
- Designated car pool parking area in lot for employees who drive together – reducing fuel consumption.
- Bicycle rack for those who bicycle to work – reducing fuel consumption.
- Carpets made with recycled material content.
- Low VOV paints and adhesives used to reduce air pollutants and damage to ozone layer.
- Highly reflective roof surface to reduce heat absorption.
- Low-volume plumbing fixtures to reduce water usage.

Q8: What is the history of the older building, which is part of the new DPS structure?

A8: The original section of the building was completed in 1927 as branch house for the International Harvester Company of America. It is believed that the lower floor was used as a showroom for the tractors and farm equipment the company produced, while the upper floors stored manufactured parts for the company. The building was used for other purposes, including possibly as apartments, before the State purchased the building and began using it as the Records and Property Building.



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